Shelf No
213.4.8

FOUNDED 1852
SICUT PATRIBUS SIT DEUS NOBIS
BOSTONIA
CONDITA A.D.
1630.
CIVIBUS FEMINE DONATA A.D. 1852.
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SCHOOL DOCUMENT NO. 15.—1881.

REPORT

2134.48

OF

COMMITTEE ON TEXT-BOOKS

ON

THE SUPPLY OF SUPPLEMENTARY READING BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BOSTON:
ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS,
No. 39 ARCH STREET.
1881.

b. H.
Nov. 21. 1873

In School Committee, June 14, 1881.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Attest:

PHINEAS BATES, Jr.,
Secretary.

REPORT.

In School Committee,
Boston, June 14, 1881.

The Committee on Text-Books, to whom was referred — April 26 — so much of the Superintendendent's report as relates to the supply of supplementary reading matter by the Public Library, respectfully present the following report: —

The increased interest in the subject of supplementary reading, and the testimony of teachers, parents, and others as to its utility and advantages, are too well known to need comment here. The experiments tried, through the personal efforts of the librarian of the Public Library and some of the masters of our Grammar Schools, have been so successful as to attract the attention of all interested in our schools, and have proved, beyond doubt, the practicability of the coöperation of the public schools and the Public Library in the supplying of supplementary reading-books to the pupils in the schools. This committee are convinced that some decisive action should be taken with reference to this subject at the present time.

In accordance with your instructions, a conference of the committee with the President of the Trustees and the Librarian of the Public Library was held, and the subject carefully considered. As the result of this conference, the following communication has been received from the Trustees of the Library, which is here given in full, as it contains the plan proposed by this committee: —

IN BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY,
May 24, 1881.

Voted, that, recognizing the great success of the system of auxiliary reading, as adopted as a branch of education at the Wells and other schools, the Trustees of the Public Library will assist in the scheme proposed by the Text-Book Committee of the School Committee upon the following basis: They will recommend to the City Government that a special appropriation of $1,000 for the present financial year of the city be granted by the City Council, to be disbursed upon the following system: — that the whole expense of the purchase of books, and of their distribution, including boxes, transportation, preparation and superintendence shall be paid from the fund, and that the selection of each text-book proceeding from the master, as in his judgment best suited to his purpose from a list prepared and approved by the Text-Book Committee, shall be transmitted to the Librarian of the Public Library, who shall purchase the same either from the regular agents of the Library, or such other party, as in his judgment will be most favorable, and be sent to the master of the school. When received at the Library, each volume shall be labelled, "Special appropriation of the City Council for the use of schools." And the control and management of the said fund and books shall be assumed by the School Committee at ninety days' notice from the Trustees of the Public Library that they desire to relinquish the same.

It is also agreed, provided the experience of the coming year is successful, that, unless the City Council, in their next annual appropriation, should provide a sum for auxiliary reading, the Trustees of the Library shall join with the School Committee in petitioning for a special appropriation for the purpose, in such sum as shall be agreed upon conference between the two bodies, to be administered upon the terms herein proposed.

A true copy of the record.

Attest:

MELLEN CHAMBERLAIN,
Clerk.

The committee are of the opinion that the proposed plan is the best which could be adopted at this time, and are convinced that the results will be most beneficial to the pupils, in aiding them to cultivate a taste for good reading, and in assisting them to so select the books from the Library as to receive the greatest benefit from that institution.

The committee recommend the passage of the accompanying order.

For the Committee,

JOHN G. BLAKE,
Chairman.

Ordered, That the plan for supplying supplementary reading, as contained in the communication from the Trustees of the Public Library, be accepted and adopted; and that the Committee on Text-Books be authorized to carry out said plan, in coöperation with said Trustees.